

Geneva; Prof. Engler, Berlin; Prof. Errera, Brussels; Prof. Eriksson, Stockholm; Prof. Fujii, Tokio; Mlle. Goldflus; Prof. Klebs, Halle; Dr. Lotsy, Leyden; Prof. Macfarlane, Philadelphia; Dr. Overton, Würzburg; Prof. Pierce, Stanford University, California; Prof. Reinke, Kiel; Prof. Schröter, Zurich; Dr. Schoute, Wageningen; Prof. de Toni, Modena; Prof. Vöchting, Tübingen; Mme. Weber van Bosse, Amsterdam; Prof. Zacharias, Hamburg.

Mr. Francis Darwin's presidential address will deal with the statolith theory of geotropism, being a discussion of the recent work on the means by which plants "perceive" the force of gravity. The semi-popular lecture, which in recent years has become one of the features of the section, will be given on Monday afternoon, at 2.30 p.m., by Dr. D. H. Scott. Prof. H. Marshall Ward and Prof. Jakob Eriksson, of Stockholm, will discuss their recent important researches on the biology of the fungi, especially the Uredineæ. The structure of the Cyanophyceæ will be dealt with by Prof. Zacharias, of Hamburg, Prof. Chodat, of Geneva, and others. Dr. J. P. Lotsy, of Leyden, has promised to give an account of the virgin woods of Java, and Prof. S. H. Vines will read a paper on the proteases of plants. Dr. F. F. Blackman will give an account, illustrated by experiments, of his important researches on assimilation and respiration; Prof. A. G. Tansley will give an address on some problems of ecology, followed by papers on various aspects of ecological botany by Prof. Engler, of Berlin, Dr. W. G. Smith, and Messrs. T. W. Woodhead and F. T. Lewis. Papers will be contributed to this section also by Profs. Czapek, Vöchting, G. Pierce, C. E. Bertrand, Dr. Margaret Stopes, Miss Sibille Ford, Prof. Hartog, Dr. W. G. Lang, E. A. Newell Arber, J. Parkin, Dr. A. Reginald Buller, Alfred P. Maudslay, Harold A. Wager, G. Barger and others.

For the first time in the history of the Association there will be a subsection devoted to agriculture, presided over by Dr. W. Somerville.

The following communications have been promised:—A. D. Hall (Rothamsted Experimental Station), the probable error of agricultural field experiments, and analysis of the soil by means of the plant; T. S. Dymond (County Laboratories, Chelmsford), the influence of sulphate as manure upon the yield and feeding value of crops, and the determination of the availability of insoluble phosphate in manures; R. H. Biffen, the improvement of wheats and Mendel's laws; R. H. Elliot, the clover mystery—a probable solution of it; Prof. Middleton, improvement of clay pastures through the agency of clovers; T. B. Wood and R. A. Berry, chemical composition of root crops.

#### Section L.

The visitors to this section include Dr. Anderssen, Christiania; M. Demolins, La Guichardière; Prof. Dewey, Chicago; Dr. Gallander, Örebro; Miss Laura Drake Gill, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York; M. A. Gobert, Brussels; M. Hovelague, Paris; Dr. Hausknecht, Kiel; Miss Hazard, president of Wellesley College, U.S.A.; Miss Irwin, Dean of Radcliffe College, Cambridge, U.S.A.; Fräulein Knittel, Breslau; Prof. Mangold, Berlin; Prof. Münch, Berlin; Mme. Dick May, Paris; Miss Oakley, Montreal; Director Trüper, Jena; Fröken Whitlock, Djursholm, Sweden; Miss M. A. Willcox, professor at Bryn Mawr, U.S.A.

One of the chief debates in Section L will be on the subject of school-leaving certificates, with special reference to the scheme proposed by the consultative committee of the Board of Education. Other important subjects selected for discussion are the national and

local provision for the training of teachers, and manual instruction in its broadest sense. Afternoon semi-popular talks will probably be given by A. D. Hall, director of the Lawes Agricultural Trust, on the need of scientific method in elementary rural instruction, and by Prof. Armstrong on the research method applied to experimental teaching.

The above summary is based on the facts supplied by the recorders of the several sections.

Tickets and programmes of local arrangements may now be obtained on application to the local secretaries, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

#### SIR JOHN SIMON, K.C.B., F.R.S.

BY the death of Sir John Simon, which occurred on July 23, in his eighty-eighth year, this country has lost one of the leaders in sanitary science who with Chadwick and others made the Victorian period a memorable one. Simon commenced the study of medicine in 1833, when he was seventeen years old, and attended both St. Thomas's Hospital and the recently established King's College. Here he studied under Joseph Henry Green, the first professor of surgery at the last-named college, and acted as assistant to Todd in preparation for his physiological lectures. On the foundation of King's College Hospital in 1840, Simon became senior assistant surgeon, being associated with men so well known as Fergusson, Partridge and Bowman. It was in 1848 that he turned his attention to that branch of medicine in which his name became famous. The Corporation of the City of London applied to Parliament for powers to improve the sanitary administration of the City, and as the result of the passing of the City Sewers Act he was appointed Medical Officer of Health. About this time the epidemic recurrence of cholera in this and other countries began to attract attention, and in 1855 it was decided to create a Central Board of Health, for the medical officership of which Simon was selected. In 1858 the functions of the Board were transferred to the Privy Council. This position made him adviser to the Government on all sanitary and medical matters, and he continued to act until 1876, when he resigned his appointment, and on his retirement the decoration of C.B. was conferred on him. On the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 he was created a K.C.B. In 1867 he was appointed a Crown member of the General Medical Council, and took an active part in the work of that body until 1895.

The effect of Simon's work as Medical Officer of Health was far more than local; his annual reports, which cover the years 1848 to 1855, form a landmark in the history of English sanitation; they survey the sanitary condition of the City, review the risks arising from cholera and other infective diseases, detail the evils of overcrowding, and direct attention to a condition of affairs which until then had escaped notice. In 1853 he was appointed one of the commissioners to inquire into the outbreak of cholera at Gateshead and Newcastle, and in 1856 submitted a report on the outbreaks of that disease in London in 1848-49 and in 1853-54, conclusively demonstrating the dependence of these epidemics on a polluted water supply. In 1857 he published a volume entitled "Papers on the History and Practice of Vaccination," which was followed in 1858 by the "Report on the Sanitary State of the People of England," which demonstrated for the first time the wide variations which exist in the local incidence of certain diseases and emphasised the need for skilled inquiry. During his term of office under the Privy Council the results of a number of



classical investigations were embodied in his reports, e.g. into diphtheria, diseases of the cotton famine, pulmonary diseases, &c. In 1862-63 an important inquiry was undertaken into dangerous industries, in 1863 a survey of the hospitals of the United Kingdom. In 1865-66 he had to establish the organisation to deal with cholera, in 1871 that to deal with the great epidemic of small-pox, and in 1870 he initiated a scheme for laboratory work in public health. He was an uncompromising opponent of the useless practice of quarantine.

Simon's resignation in 1876 was brought about by the Local Government Board Act of 1871 creating the Local Government Board. In Simon's opinion large questions of medical policy affecting the whole country could only be adequately dealt with by a Ministry of Health, a view which is widely held by the medical profession at present, and, having allowed time to see how the new Acts would work, he retired discouraged and disheartened. It is true that the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board and its staff now have duties and responsibilities far wider and more numerous than they were at the date of the creation of the Board, but still a great opportunity was missed. In 1890 he published his great work on "English Sanitary Institutions."

Simon numbered among his friends many of the greatest men of the nineteenth century—Darwin, Buckle, G. H. Lewes, Kingsley, Renan, Tennyson, Rossetti, Burne-Jones and many others. He was in 1878 president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and was the recipient of numerous other honours. He has gone to his rest honoured of all men, and his name will ever live in the annals of sanitary science.

R. T. HEWLETT.

#### A BANKER NATURALIST.

BY the sudden death of Mr. Henry Evans on July 23 the Midlands have lost a well-known and wealthy banker, and the West Highlands of Scotland an equally well-known deer-stalker, yachtsman and naturalist. Born in 1831, he was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, graduated there, and was a member of the Senate of the University to the end of his life, coming up from time to time to record his vote on matters of importance. Early in his career he appears to have developed a love of natural history pursuits, for while an undergraduate he became an associate of the Ray Club, of which there are only six at a time, chosen on account of some proved zeal in these studies. He took at that time to entomology, and made a collection of British Lepidoptera. Even up to the end of his life, when he had long abandoned these early predilections, he was still proud of his insect cabinet, and especially of the numerous and fine specimens which it included of the now extinct English large copper butterfly. Being the youngest son of a banker, he naturally became a partner in his father's bank, that of Messrs. W. and S. Evans and Co., of Derby, and on its amalgamation with another firm he was made a director of the new company, Crompton Evans Union Bank. But though a shrewd and capable man of business, he never mingled in public affairs. The leisure of his younger years was largely given to rifle-shooting, in which he grew to be one of the best shots in the country. He competed at the Wimbledon meetings of the National Rifle Association until a lamentable accident occurred to him at one of the practices, when the rifle of a companion was unwittingly discharged against his leg. Three successive amputations were

necessitated, and he had to go up on crutches to receive a prize which he had won. This disaster, however, was not allowed to deprive him of his favourite sport. He had become an expert shot among the red deer of the Scottish forests and the seals of the coast of Connemara, and with indomitable courage he now availed himself of the help of a pony and continued his campaigns among the mountains with more success than ever. In one season he fired fifty-two shots and killed fifty deer. After renting various tracts of ground in the Highlands, he finally, in 1875, leased the forest which comprises the extensive mountain ground in the centre of the island of Jura. Choosing a tract of bare moorland that sloped down to the sea, he built there a comfortable mansion-house, surrounding it with trees and shrubs and flowers, covering it with roses, and ingeniously devising expedients that baffled the Atlantic blasts and enabled his vegetation to bloom and spread. This charming Highland retreat became his home for some months every season for nearly thirty years, and he lingered longer there as time went on until eventually he spent more than half of each year in Jura. But though deer-stalking was the original and predominant motive for these prolonged northern sojourns, he was far more than a mere sportsman. His early love of natural history pursuits found an ample field for development in his island home, but it was to the birds that he now gave his attention. Gifted with excellent eyesight, Mr. Evans was an acute and accurate observer. The rapidity and exactness of his recognition of birds on the wing were so remarkable that to friends who accompanied him it almost seemed as if he were the happy possessor of another sense beyond the number allotted to ordinary mortals. He made his mountains and moors in Jura a perfect paradise for wild birds. No gun or trap was ever allowed to be used against them, and everything was done that would induce them to frequent the district.

But it was not only in his own forest that Mr. Evans watched the habits of wild birds. He fitted out a steam yacht, the *Aster*, of 250 tons, on which he usually spent a month or two every year, cruising around the coasts and islands of the west and north of Scotland. He was thus able to gratify his passionate love of cliff scenery and his delight in the crowded breeding haunts of the northern sea-fowl. There are few precipices and inlets in the west and north of Scotland which he had not visited and about which he had not some natural history record to tell. He used to keep jottings of these observations. But he had no ambition to be an author. The retiring disposition which kept him from taking part in public affairs prevented him also from publishing any account of what he saw. All that he observed, however, was freely communicated to those whom it would interest. Some of his observations have thus been made generally known, but his numerous unpublished notes on the distribution of birds all over the west of Scotland would doubtless furnish valuable material to zoologists interested in this subject. Besides shooting his red deer in Jura, he studied them as a four-footed community living isolated under special conditions. He embodied his observations and statistics in a little pamphlet printed some years ago, but only for private distribution, and entitled "Jura Red Deer." Before surrendering his forest to the landlord he brought the records of deer-life up to the end of his tenancy and embodied them in an interleaved copy of the pamphlet. His experience had enabled him to gather together a good number of valuable facts. It is much to be desired that the completed pamphlet should be carefully revised by a competent editor and published as a